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length upon the general geographical features of New England, showing the influence they had exerted in fixing the successive settlements of this part of the country. He proposed to treat the subject more fully in a Memoir to be laid before the Academy.

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**Four hundred and forty-third meeting.**

October 13, 1857.—MONTHLY MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read the following letters, viz.:—From the Académie Royale des Sciences, &c. de Belgique, January 15, 1856, and February 7, 1857, the Academy of Science of St. Louis, August 24, 1857, and the American Philosophical Society, September 10, 1857, acknowledging the receipt of the Academy's publications; from the Academy of Natural Sciences, July 7, 1857, acknowledging the same, and asking that missing numbers may be supplied; and from the Académie Royale des Sciences, Turin, May 15, 1857, acknowledging the same, and presenting its own publications.

Professor Lovering said, that, at a former meeting,—in making some remarks on the question, whether the Mississippi River flows up hill,—he alluded to a criticism of President Horace Mann (published in the Common School Journal) upon those who attributed the direction of the flow of this river to centrifugal force. Mr. Lovering had since learned from Mr. Mann that he recalled his opinion in the same Journal two years afterward. If Mr. Lovering had known this fact at the time he should not have alluded to the unsound criticism; and he wished now to give Mr. Mann the benefit of having recanted most fully his former error, before he himself took notice of the subject.

Dr. Weinland gave an account of a recent visit to the island of Hayti. He mentioned many interesting facts concerning the influence of the prevailing winds upon the

surrounding sea, and its incidental effect upon the marine Fauna of that region, and the formation of a solid rock from the *débris* of shells and corals. Dr. Weinland also spoke of the vegetation of the island, and of the manners and customs of the inhabitants.

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**Four hundred and forty-fourth meeting.**

November 11, 1857.—STATED MEETING.

The PRESIDENT in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from the Société des Sciences des Indes Neerlandaises, dated Batavia, April 18, 1857, desiring to know whether all of its publications which had been transmitted to the Academy had been received.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows, viz.:—

Ezekiel Brown Elliott, in Class I. Section 1.

Frank H. Storer, in Class I. Section 3.

William T. Andrews, in Class III. Section 4.

Charles W. Eliot, in Class I. Section 3.

St. Julien Ravenel, M.D., of Charleston, South Carolina, and Professor Edward Robinson, LL.D., of New York, nominated by the Council, were elected Associate Fellows, the former in Class II. Section 3, the latter in Class III. Section 2.

Professor Horsford exhibited specimens of parchment paper, prepared from paper of a very loose texture, by dipping it into a mixture of two parts of sulphuric acid and one of water, and then rapidly washing it in cold water. The action of the acid probably converts the surface of the fibres into a gum, which, on hardening, cements the whole, and gives great strength to the paper.

Professor Horsford also exhibited specimens of Silicium; also of copper obtained from a deposit of Tripoli, about forty miles from Bangor, Maine.

Dr. S. S. Kneeland exhibited two specimens of Meno-